



Civic Engagement Newsletter

Improving the Service Infrastructure: The VISTA program

By Emily Smith
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Nearly 5,000 children live in poverty in Erie County. Four hundred and fifty-one Crawford County youth share the same fate, according to 1999 census statistics.

Recently, Dave Roncolato, the Director of Community Service and Service-Learning at Allegheny College, received a VISTA grant to help combat these depressing and challenging statistics.

For the past few years, he has thought about forming an "Allegheny Corps" of recent graduates to continue their service to the community. These alumni could gain volunteer experience before entering graduate school or the job market.

VISTA, or Volunteers in Service to America, is affiliated with AmeriCorps, a national service organization sponsored by the federal government. The VISTA program focuses on children, youth, and poverty.

Roncolato, as well as two VISTA leaders, are working to get the program running in Crawford and Erie counties.

A volunteer working through AmeriCorps at a soup kitchen would serve food, clean up, and other direct service with the agency. The job of a VISTA would be to work with that organiza-



Learning to Serve,
and Serving to Learn



Alumni Rebecca Gebhart ('03) and Rebekah Gayley ('03) are scouting out non-profit organizations to determine which would most benefit from the addition of a VISTA leader in the coming years.

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What Convinces Youth to Vote?

By Jason Peck
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

When Allegheny's Dan Shea completes his project in January, the academic world will pay attention. So will the leaders of America's political parties. *The Washington Post* is following the development closely, and scholars nationwide have

their eye on Shea.

The project, *Throwing a Better Party: Mobilizing Institutions and the Youth Vote*, is an innovative study that seeks to discover how political parties increase voter turnout among young voters. The end result will detail not only *how* political parties conduct their business, but how they *ought* to. The finished product could

be nothing less than the guidebook for parties to energize a new generation to civic engagement.

Previous studies merely targeted the individual voter at random and only recorded individual attitudes. But no study has ever attempted what Shea is doing. The program targets the party leaders of Democratic and Republican counties nationwide and

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Learning By Doing

Students spread out across campus, posing questions, getting quotations, and revising, revising, revising, all to produce the *Civic Engagement Newsletter* you're reading here.

Professor Bomberger's Technical/Professional Writing class confronted the challenges of writing for a publication by creating one. They set a high standard for themselves, encouraging one another to keep reorganizing their materials, fine-tuning their language, and double-checking for accuracy. We hope you enjoy the result of their hard work.

Some students opted to write promotional materials for other organizations near and dear to them, both those on campus and those in the broader community. As a result,

- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) now has a new brochure to recruit volunteers.
- Allegheny's Women's Studies program has a brochure to showcase this semester's events.
- Contra dancers can now dance in delight about their new brochure.
- A student's family-owned business, Fire Services, can highlight its expertise using a new brochure.



Back Row: Michelle Weiland, Abigale Klinshaw, Lauren Croker, Tracie Gaydos, Maura Bennardo, Kara Reiter, and Brandon Redding
Middle Row (standing): Ade Conway, Jason Peck, Jared Delio, Amy Crouse
Kneeling: Stephanie Kreutter, Laura Greene, Prof. Ann Bomberger



Learning to Serve,
and Serving to Learn

Our motto, "Learning to Serve and Serving to Learn" is taken from The Council of Independent Colleges with permission.



Allegheny College, a selective liberal arts college of nearly 2,000 students in Meadville, PA, is one of the ten institutions to participate in Project Pericles, a national project of the Eugene Lang Foundation, committed to instilling in students a sense of social responsibility and civic concern.

Interdisciplinary Education: Case Studies about Watersheds

By Brandon Redding
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Creating civically engaged, environmentally and socially aware, well-rounded citizens: this is where the average college education falls short. You learn your coursework; you learn to study, to play well with others, to virtually move into one academic building and immerse yourself in a world where everyone has the same background, the same interests, the same opinions.

And then you graduate and start to interact with people whose background is in another discipline. The group work that exists in college is typically with fellow students in the same class in the same major—you aren't combining with people who have different talents and abilities. This means you don't fully rely on your fellow group members because you understand what they're doing and could do it yourself if necessary. When working with people using talents you don't have, you must rely on them and successfully integrate your different talents to find success. After graduation you'll work on these real projects where you have to finish it and you have to correct all the problems; you don't get to say "screw it, I'm done," take the C-, and then tell your parents the professor was a jerk.

Interdisciplinary education attempts to offer a realistic, big-picture way of looking at a project. It's a strategy addressing many of the shortcomings inherent in a classic college education. At Allegheny, interdisciplinary education takes the form of joint classes, study tours abroad, outside speakers, and symposiums.

If Allegheny had a PBS-style "helping to make this all possible" jingle it would credit the Henry Luce Foundation for promoting interdisciplinary education at Allegheny through a grant of nearly \$250,000. The grant will be used to fund class projects, sponsor speakers, and generally support the development of interdisciplinary programs.

Watersheds have been selected as Allegheny's platform to promote interdisciplinary education. A watershed starts off as an environmental concept, defining regions as large basins in which all the water flows to a common outlet. While its roots are in the environment, studying a region's water is easily incorporated with the study of a region's culture, industry, and political



Luce grant participants share a canoe trip while learning about different disciplines' approach to watersheds.

Allegheny Senior Karen Hoerst Receives National Humanitarian Award

By Abigale Klinshaw
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Karen Hoerst, '04, was honored this summer with the Howard R. Swearer Student Humanitarian Award. Nominated by President Richard Cook, Hoerst was one of approximately 127 applicants who applied for this honor and one of only five students who won the award. The money that Karen has received will be used to start a tenant's organization in Meadville.

The Swearer Award is one of the few awards in the country that look at both civil action and community service.

Currently in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she's working in an existing tenant organization, Hoerst will return to Meadville for the spring semester.

She would like to see renters aware of their rights and the rights and responsibilities of their landlords. Hoerst is hoping to coordinate a meeting for Meadville tenants, landlords, and key players such as the building inspector. The purpose of this meeting will be to inform each person about the role they play in the rental situation. Also Hoerst would like to build one-on-one relationships and find

Karen Hoerst... (Continued on page 4)

status. Its ability to incorporate so many diverse fields makes it an ideal focus point for the Luce Grant programs.

While watersheds will be used as a launching point for interdisciplinary programs, their study is more than a means to an end. Developing students with an understanding and appreciation for watersheds is one of the main goals of the Luce grant. By studying watersheds, students may gain some of

that Thoreau appreciation for nature, but more importantly they should understand how a community affects its environment.

Joint classes are one of the major ways Allegheny plans to attain the goals of the Luce grant. Allegheny currently offers eight interdisciplinary minors including Art and the Environment. One of the capstone courses in this minor is LS301, *Envisioning Environmental Futures*.

Watersheds... (Continued on page 4)

Announcements

Allegheny College Peace Coalition

Join The Allegheny College Peace Coalition (ACPC) on Saturday, Oct. 25 as they travel to Washington DC to participate in the March Against the Occupation of Iraq. International ANSWER and United are sponsoring the march. For information contact Blair Anundson at breed4b@hotmail.com.



Volunteer Opportunities

Help people learn how to read through the Crawford County Read Program. For information contact 337-7323.



Interested in animals? Volunteer at Hog Heaven and help care for and rehabilitate hooved animals. Contact 425-1850 if you are interested.

Lecture Announcement

"Faith, Politics and Society," Jim Wallis, Executive Director and Editor of *Sojourners Magazine* and Convener of Call to Renewal, Oct. 26 at 8:00 p.m. in Ford Chapel. *Time* magazine named Wallis one of the "50 Faces for America's Future." The Winslow Lecture is free and open to all.

Hoerst (continued from page 3)

leaders who will be prominent in creating this tenant organization.

Hoerst has made many extraordinary contributions. She is a Service-Learning Challenge Co-Organizer, she recently completed her 900 hours as an Americorps Bonner Leader, and she is a founding member of the Campus Outreach Opportunity League's (COOL) student advisory board. Hoerst presented at COOL's national conference in Cleveland, Ohio, and spoke to participants at the first annual summit of Eugene Lang's Project Pericles in NYC.

When I asked Hoerst where her drive to help people came from, she said "My drive is a sense of community that has been ingrained in me by my family. My mother came from a very large, very close family. Growing up I always had a family member around to support me and a cousin to hang out with. This really instilled in me a strong sense of community and being able to count on people. This is something that is crucial to my life, and it propels me in the work that I do." •

Students: Would you like to get organizational experience by helping professors set up the logistics of their service-learning classes?

Find out more about the Service-Learning Challenge

- Applications due: November 7, 2003
- Interviews: Week of November 10, 2003
- Acceptance notification: November 14, 2003
- SSL/Faculty lunch meeting: Week of November 17, 2003

Interested in Community Service? Would you like courses that incorporate Community Service?

Come to the Values, Ethics, and Social Action Luncheon.

Thursday, October 30th, at noon in Grounds for Change.

Watersheds (continued from page 3)

Taught by Professors Pallant and Geffen, this class will work closely with Professor Onyeiwu's Economics 240, *Introduction to Managerial Economics*. LS301 is a project-based course whose goal is to attain funding from local businesses to support public art projects.

This course incorporates all the goals of the Luce Grant. Art students work with environmental students to conceptualize public art projects that would reflect and benefit the local watershed. These students then work with economics students to understand how public art projects affect local businesses. Their success relies on learning to combine their unique backgrounds in order to develop and apply a strategy in the real world. To understand the benefits of public art, students will study the watershed in all its components.

After the course, students will present the results of their project at a spring symposium on watersheds. This presentation should make the project more realistic; it isn't just for a class or for a grade, it's a real project with real ramifications. Another benefit is sharing information about watersheds and generating interest in future classes.

Students who take this course will gain incomparable experience working on a major project with a wide variety of peers from different disciplines. They will gain an appreciation for their watershed and of course begin to understand their role as a "civically engaged, environmentally and socially aware, well-rounded citizen." •

Why Should the Tool and Die Industry Be Socially Responsible?

By Amy Crouse
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Improving safety conditions, contributing to philanthropy, and helping to protect the environment within one corporation can all be labeled as socially responsible actions. As society becomes increasingly aware of the importance of corporate social responsibility, it becomes vital for businesses to respond to changes in our society. Corporations need to take on these social responsibilities. An effective way to take on social responsibility is for corporations to use public art to build up a reputation which in turn can increase the profit of the company.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) states that corporations should be held accountable for their actions that affect stakeholders. A corporation must balance its economic, legal, and social goals to obtain a good reputation. Reputation has become the key element for corporate success. Evidence suggests that the long-run benefits of CSR can be substantial.

There are two principles that justify CSR. The first states that wealthy persons have an obligation to help the poor, while the second contends that corporations should be regarded as trustees for society. Socially responsible corporations often obtain a competitive advantage over other companies. The support of public art by the Tool and Die industry can help the local community, while enhancing the industry's reputation.

To make a connection between the local Tool and Die industry and support for public art, one must understand what the Tool and Die industry is, the importance of it, and its history. The Tool and Die industry evolved after WWII from a Talon Apprentice program known for creating and producing the zipper. In the Crawford/Erie area there are over 450 plants and 4,000 jobs provided by this industry. These companies are usually small, family-owned companies, that manufacture dies and molds and produce services such as design, contract machining and testing.

With the impact of changing technology and foreign competition, the industry has seen major losses, including reduction of the workforce by 20% since 2001, closure of some shops, and reduction of profit margins. Would a focus on social goals help the industry in these challenging economic times? From the CSR prospective, the industry must remain committed to community development.

At a Tool and Die Stakeholders meeting held on October 3, 2003 at the Iroquois Club in Conneaut Lake, the issue of how the Tool and Die industry can support public art in Meadville was discussed. The County Manager of PennDOT, Jack Molke attended the meeting and spoke of the collaboration between himself, PennDOT, Professor Amara Geffen, the art professor involved in the project, and the Allegheny College community that led to the creation of the project entitled *Signs and Flowers*. Mr. Molke spoke of the importance of the project and how impressed he was with the workers and students that participated in this event. This art project has become a landmark for locals. Mr. Molke is very satisfied with the outcome of the

Tool and Die... (Continued on page 6)



At a stakeholders meeting to discuss the way art could help strengthen the tool and die industry, County Manager of PennDOT, Jack Molke, described the highly acclaimed *Signs and Flowers* project pictured here.

Interactive Website Coming Soon

By Maura Bennardo
Eng 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

For most students, politics isn't a main concern in their lives. This unfortunately leads to fewer voters for the future. But what if an interactive, fun website about politics was designed by students for students? Could it help generate interest in politics?

Sophomore Sara Schmitt, a Creative Writing major/Political Science minor at Allegheny hopes so. She is one of the students actively involved in creating such a site, through the Pathways of Politics Program.

Chosen to work this summer at an eight-week internship at Vassar College's Media Studies Development Program (MSDP) along with her partner for the project, senior Angie Jack, Schmitt learned how to use technology. Professor Shea of the Political Science department made this opportunity possible because of the current book he is writing. The *Pathways of Politics* textbook Shea's been writing needed some sort of supplementary technological program, such as an interactive CD. Finally settling on the idea of a website, he submit-

Pathways... (Cont'd on page 8)



Habitat for Humanity

**Alleghenians
Active
In Their
Communities**



**Election Night
Extravaganza**



Make a Difference Day

Tool and Die *(continued from pg. 5)*

project. In the 1970's Penn DOT did not have an excellent image. Over the years the company began to work hard, not only on the roads but within the community. It became interested in the people as well as the environment.

Students also prepared presentations from the LS 301 class and the Managerial Economics class on Public Art and corporate social responsibility while preparing to work with the Meadville community.

Those who attended the meeting included Tool and Die owners Tim Mullen, Larry Sippy, Greg Antoun, Rob Smith, and Jack Burns. City Council, members of the Re-development Authority and the Meadville Beautification Committee, Mayor Richard Friedberg, and Allegheny College have begun to collaborate, for the first time, to promote public art in the Meadville community. To be able to visibly express the dedication of the employees, the importance of the industry, and the culture and pride of the town would be priceless. The long-run benefits would outweigh the small costs incurred in the short-run. Yet with cost in mind, many of the students present made it clear that public art does not have to be an expensive project. If

people come together and use resources, such as old scraps that may be lying around, the cost may actually be very small

The Tool and Die industry has begun to see the college as a major resource that could be used productively. The college can become partners with the community to support economic revitalization. The investment in the community through public art can visually enrich the environment, unite the community, generate pride, and reflect culture. Through corporate social responsibility and public art, businesses need to, as Brandon Carl, class of '06, stated, "make it known that the heart and pride of the industry is found here, in Western Pennsylvania."•



Getting to Know the Neighborhood: Women's Services

Loss of Funding Threatens Women's Services

By Kara Reiter
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Meet Jane. Jane had the world on a string. She was motivated and talented, in addition to being a wife and mother. Meet Dick. Dick was the faithful provider for the family and loyal father to their son Sam. There was a time when Jane and Dick were the best of friends and neither thought anything could change. But slowly things did change, including Dick. He started to become jealous of Jane's relationships with her friends and family. He began to hit her when he drank. Eventually all the "little" things lead to one very big thing: abuse. The humiliation and abuse were wearing on Jane, but where could she go, what could she do? Finally, Dick threatened their son, and Jane packed her bags. She found safety and comfort at a local women's shelter. In Meadville, Women's Services, Inc. serves 1,200 victims of domestic/sexual violence.

Women's Services provides approximately 5,000 days of shelter to 260 women and children per year. However, their services are in danger due to Governor Rendell's state budget cuts. For example, the Human Services Development Fund, one of the sources of funding for Women's Services, suffered a \$33 million cut when the state Legislature approved Governor Rendell's 2003-04 budget in March. This cut has resulted in

human service programs eliminating valuable services and attempting to find other sources of revenue. Gilly Ford, Director of Women's Services in Meadville, states, "The loss of funding has had a huge impact, and the need for services does not go away."

Women's Services currently suffers from an \$89,000 loss due to a variety of factors.

In addition to the shelter, Women's Services provides supportive counseling to adults, children, and their significant others who are the victims and survivors of domestic/sexual violence. Services offered through counseling include individual and group supportive counseling, a 24-hour hotline, crisis intervention, and accompaniment to medical, police, or court proceedings. To decrease the amount of abuse in the community, Women's Services has established abuse awareness programs for schools, professionals, and other groups.

As a non-profit organization, Women's Services could not be effective without volunteers. Volunteers are involved in

Want to Volunteer or Donate to Women's Services?

Reach them by phone at
(814) 724-4637, by e-mail at womenser@alltel.net, or by mail at
Women's Services, Inc.,
P.O. Box 537, Meadville,
PA 16335.

WOMEN'S SERVICES . . . Continued on page 11

Allegheny's CEED reports on Tool and Die industry of Crawford County

By KC Miller
English 208:
Technical/Professional Writing

For more than fifty years, Crawford County and Meadville have depended on the tool and die industry. As the most prevalent and productive industry in the area, it has served as the backbone for the local economy, providing a total salary that far surpasses that of any other industry.

According to the research conducted by Allegheny's Center for Economic and Environmental Development, recent competition has suppressed the productivity of the industry since 2001. The study, performed by Dr. Judith Lynch and Dr. Stephen Onyeiwu, examined the economic and environmental effects of the tool and die industry within the French Creek Watershed in New York and Pennsylvania.

Tool and die shops dedicate themselves to producing dies, jigs, fixtures, and molds used in the manufacturing

of parts for automobiles, computers, airplanes, cellular phones, farm equipment, and medical supplies. Without these



small (employing an average of 17 workers per shop), locally owned shops, the mass production of these parts would not be possible.

The French Creek Watershed, an 800,000 acre region spanning from Sherman, NY through Erie, Crawford, Mercer and Venango counties in Pennsylvania, has relied on the tool and die industry since the 1950's. This region, containing approximately 200 tool and die shops, currently employs nearly

3,500 residents within the watershed alone.

With most shops centrally located around the city of Meadville, the 2,490 employees within the portion of the watershed in Crawford County rely heavily on the industry to provide \$116,865,000 in wages and salaries per year, according to the study.

The 164 tool and die shops within this region of the county make up approximately 81 percent of the total shops within the watershed. Compared to the 1,390 farms in the same region providing only \$78,150,000, it is evident that the industry has greatly contributed to the economic state of the county.

Following the invention of the zipper by Talon Incorporated, Crawford County has become a haven for the manufacturing industry. Although Talon stood alone in the industry for many years, the com-

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tion to improve internal planning.

Rebekah Gayley, '03, one of this year's VISTA leaders, has previous experience with AmeriCorps as a Bonner leader for Women's Services her sophomore year. She says the two experiences are different because "Bonner leaders work more directly with organizations, while now I do behind the scenes work".

The VISTA program at Allegheny is being developed in collaboration with three other schools: Gannon University, Edinboro University, and Mercyhurst College, all of which have established community service programs. The VISTA program will be launched into place with a minimal cost to these institutions.

The present goal of the current VISTAs is to scout out organizations in both Erie and Crawford counties that could benefit from the program. Of the twenty total organizations that will receive help, Roncolato speculates that VISTA will target "about twelve organizations in Erie County, and eight in Crawford," although he clarifies that since the non-profits have not yet been chosen, the numbers are not definite.

Working with Gayley to select these organizations is Rebecca Gebhardt, '03. A neuroscience and psychology major, Gebhardt has no regrets about delaying post-graduate plans for a year. "It was a decision of money vs. experience," says Gebhardt of her position.

Since the grant will employ Gayley and Gebhardt for one year, both have plans to attend graduate school.

In addition to selecting non-profits that focus on children, youth, and poverty, they are responsible for recruiting and choosing twenty individuals who will serve as VISTA leaders for the selected organizations. Since the VISTA grant is valid for three years, Gebhardt and Gayley will work for one year, while the other twenty leaders will be employed by the Corporation for National and Community Service for the remaining two years. The VISTA leaders for these agencies will make structural and organizational changes that can be continued when VISTA leaders no longer volunteer their services. The VISTA program will work to build infrastructure within agencies and organization in order to make a lasting impact on the lives of children and youth living in poverty.

Gebhardt and Gayley are working hard this year setting up two advisory committees that will work with agencies for the next two years. Roncolato hopes that "they will learn a lot from their year of service...about working in the field." The men and women working with those organizations, as well as the leaders who set up the program, can be confident that they made an impact on the quality of life in Northwestern Pennsylvania. And that's what service-learning is all about. •

If you are interested in the CPP or helping out with the Pathways of Politics project, please contact Sarah Schmitt at schmits@allegheny.edu.

You can also visit the CPP's website at <http://cpp.allegheny.edu>.

Website

(Continued from page 5)

ted his plan to Vassar, because of their MSD Program, and sent Sara and Angie to get the website in the works.

Pathways of Politics' goal is to en-


gage the reader and to not simply outline topics in a straight edge, conventional way. Schmitt says, "it teaches students ways in which they can effectively make a lasting change." The website will explore common practices in politics, describe how candidates reach their voters, discuss present issues in society, and include educational games.

The Pathways of Politics website will be put to use in high school American Government classes and in Collegiate Political Science courses.

The site should be done by December 2003 and will be kicked off with a launching party.

*As of now, the website is not completed, but it will eventually be posted at cpp.allegheny.edu. •

Do you work for a non-profit organization?

Does it need a brochure? Instructions? Contact Ann Bomberger and we may be able to help.  ann.bomberger@allegheny.edu. 332-4334, <ann.bomberger@allegheny.edu>.

TOOL AND DIE (Cont'd from page 7)

pany set the stage for future development of tool and die shops throughout the area.

Many of the small, local shops established following the success of Talon are still open today, owned and run by the same family for generations. But the study estimates that sixty five percent of the shops still open today were established in the 80's and 90's.

The success of the tool and die industry has been greatly affected following foreign competition since 2001. Onyeiwu and Lynch blame the failing local economy compared to the flourishing economy of foreign markets for this. The study explains that the industry relies on constant changes in machinery and operation. Because many foreign companies contain the required financial accountability for the introduction of new products and new machinery, they continue out-bidding many local shops. This has become a great dilemma for local tool and die shops and the local economy.

By 2003, approximately 2,500,000 manufacturing jobs had been lost in the United States, mainly to foreign competition. The International Trade Commission has reported that China, the main foreign competition, has consistently been able to produce the same products as domestic tool and die shops for as much as fifty percent of US prices. •

Make a Difference in Politics Too!

By Tracie Gaydos
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

College students across the country are volunteering at historically high rates, willing to give their time and skills to needy causes. Yet at the same time, voter turnout among young people is at an all-time low. What's wrong with this picture? According to the Center for Political Participation (CPP), a lot.

Although we tend to think of Allegheny as an exceptional institution with regards to its commitment to civic engagement, with good reason, we have also fallen victim to these trends.

Senior political science major and Student Fellow for the CPP, Shannon Scotece does not see a problem with students willing to

give their time and volunteer for worthy causes. In fact, she thinks it is a promising statistic. "Given that the Allegheny campus is already involved in this commitment to service, the CPP would like to encourage students to take the next step by showing them how to get involved in the policymaking decisions of their leaders," explained Scotece. This is the rationale driving the Center for Political Participation's upcoming program, *Make a Difference in Politics, Too!*

Scotece, the committee chair, and three other Fellows designed the event as a spin-off of the college's hugely successful annual Make a Difference Day (MADD), where



Sara Schmitt encourages her fellow students to register to vote during the Wingfest Voter Registration drive.

Allegheny students team up with members of the Crawford County community for one day to work on a wide range of clean up and renovation projects throughout the surrounding area. It began on October 20th, two days after MADD, and wrapped up on October 23rd.

The first two days focused on policy issues that

POLITICS... Continued on page 10

VOTE... *(Continued from pg1)*



asks them what they are doing to reach out to youth.

The difference? County chiefs can provide more than personal opinion: namely, real information.

"We want to discover why young Americans seem so disinterested in politics even though party organizations have more resources than they did in the past," Shea explains.

The project was made possible by a \$97,000 grant from the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE), a research organization that examines voter behavior. Similar

grants have gone to such prestigious universities as Berkeley, Stanford, and Columbia.

The survey began with letters to 1600 of the districts that rank among the top 50% in population. The final tally will come down to 800, a total of 400 Democratic chiefs and 400 Republican chiefs.

The timing is also of the utmost importance. By placing it during an off-election year, they are more likely to reach party officials, and more likely to find out what tactics the party recently used.

Since Allegheny lacks a study center, the calls will be made at the University of Akron and directed by Ray C. Bliss, Shea's collaborator on the project. Only professional survey takers have been hired as subcontractors. An early draft of the survey showed most of the ques-

tions can be answered with "yes" or "no." Very few require elaboration, and each survey only takes about 20 minutes. And Shea sees no great difficulty in analyzing the information. He sees the report complete in a matter of weeks after the surveys are completed.

But nonetheless, Shea expects a great deal of diversity in his report.

"The results depend on a lot of things," he says. "It depends on history, demographic, and the amount of competition. If you have a district where one party dominates, odds are they won't even bother to try reaching out to the youth."

For Shea, the study is also appealing on a more personal level. Voter apathy among young people

has always been a concern of his; to remedy this he opened up Allegheny's Center for Political Participation in 2002 and has worked tirelessly toward encouraging the youth toward political participation. But if this project is successful, Shea will make a far bigger difference toward his goal.

"We're in an actual position to make a difference," he says. "If a party chief in California sees what a successful leader is doing in Georgia, he'll change his strategy and be more successful."

"It all goes back to parties," Shea continues. "In the past, they got out the vote. What has changed?"



Allegheny purchases about 1/4 of the annual electricity generated by one of these wind turbines.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection recently created an Energy Fellows program to cultivate students' knowledge of energy policies and practices. Meadville Community Energy Project Directors Mike Marniates and Kathy Greely took a group of Fellows, pictured here, to see a windfarm in September.

BOUNTY (Continued from page 12)

pare. They also frequently require more refrigerated storage space, making a transition to using local foods a more complex issue than might initially be apparent.

Though costs may be greater, local foods offer better nutrition, as well as superior quality, freshness and flavor. In addition, purchasing local foods preserves local farmlands, supports local economy, saves energy, and promotes biodiversity, the wealth of plant species in the environment.

Food for thought: If you want to savor the taste of fresh, marinated pork, crisp, ripe vegetables, or creamy locally-made ice cream consistently on the Allegheny campus, support the local foods movement. Subscribe to the CSA, shop at Valesky's and other local produce markets, or push for the incorporation of more local products into Allegheny's dining system. •

Politics (continued from page 9)

students are exposed to through MADD, namely environmental issues and poverty in America. The events of these days involved both the campus and the community. A panel of professors, students, and members of the community gathered to discuss the current local environmental policy and how students can get involved to either push policy initiatives or lobby against them.

Students can spend all day working at a soup kitchen and have a profound impact upon the lives of the people who depend on the kitchen. Yet, if they find a way to work towards the passage of a bill that allocates more money to that soup kitchen or eliminates the need for a soup kitchen, their influence can be even more profound.

Next, Grass Roots organizations, or non-governmental organizations on campus and in the community who take up a specific cause, will come together to advertise what they do in the community for issues such as poverty and how policy decisions have affected their efforts. This type of organization generates its power from a large, active volunteer base, so it may be the most natural transition for those students who are already actively volunteering.

An informative campaign about what Congress is currently doing regarding these two issues along with a "What can you do?" challenge extended to the campus wrapped up the event on Wednesday. Students will be encouraged to contact local and even national legislators. Oftentimes students do not realize how simple it is to contact a legislator or assume that if they make contact, their efforts are ignored. This is not the case. Junior political science major, Ashlee Rich, spent part of her summer on an EL Term working in the Washington office of Representative Phil English and was able to see firsthand the impact that contacting a legislator can have. "I was amazed by the fact that someone in the office reads and responds to every letter that is sent," said Rich. The CPP hopes that more students will also have this realization.

The Center recognizes that some students will be hesitant to jump right into the game of politics. Voting is the most basic form of political participation, yet today, a 65-year-old American is twice as likely to vote as a 25-year-old American. It is easy to see why that demographic has influence over our legislators. A voter registration drive coincided with these events.

Scotece understands that politically engaging students at the same rate as they are volunteering is not an easy task. Young people's cynicism towards politics is at an all-time high. She and the CPP realize that in order for Allegheny to fulfill its mission as a liberal arts institution, to educate its students with the goal of them becoming better citizens, politics cannot be left out of the equation any longer. As President Cook stated, "volunteer service alone is insufficient to ensure a commitment to active citizenship."

Make a Difference in Politics, Too leads the way by challenging students to take this next step beyond simply volunteering their time, to actually make a long-term difference. •



After you vote, come watch

BULWORTH

~Presented by the Center for Political Participation~
Tuesday, November 4th, 8:00 pm in the Quigley Auditorium

Managing Forests

By Jared Delio
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Forests are a vital part of our world ecosystem and are the primary source for such necessary resources as lumber, water, and other non-timber products. Forests are vital to human life but are constantly being challenged by certain pollutants and our increased need for the services that forests provide. These factors are helping to damage the sustainability of forest ecosystems throughout the world and a loss of these forests would prove highly detrimental to the human population. As a way to combat this, as well as spread awareness about the matter, professor Richard D. Bowden's Environmental Science 320 class "Forest Ecosystems and Management" are learning how humans can help to sustain these forests.

Forest Ecosystem and Management is a lab-based class typically taken by Environmental Science majors. In this class students learn how forests operate and gain an understanding of forest ecosystem patterns and processes. The course also focuses on the history of forests in America, examining its linkage with human history and tracking the influence that humans have had upon the environment. Students explore such things as global warming, acidic deposition, and the harvesting of forest products and discuss ways to prevent forest hazards.

Students are currently conducting research at the Bousson experimental forest which is a college-owned piece of land located seven miles from campus containing ponds, wet-



Congratulations on your 30th Anniversary ACA Scholarship Program!

The Allegheny College Association provides scholarships for Crawford County women returning to college. It started in 1973 as the Allegheny Women's Group.

lands, and almost three hundred acres of woodlands. Tree growth and soil processes have been monitored for the past 13 years, allowing members of the class to examine influences of global climate change and air pollution on forest productivity. This research is furthering the studies that former students have done for their senior comprehensive projects.

By learning correct forest management, Professor Bowden's class are doing their part to alleviate the negative impact that humans can have on the ecosystem as well as providing a service to the Allegheny forest community. •

Women's Services *(continued from page 7)*

almost all aspects of Women's Services, from counseling to clerical assistance to fundraising. On average, volunteers provide 5,000 hours of service per year.

Not only is working for human services rewarding, Women's Services creates excellent opportunities for students to serve as Bonner Leaders,

obtain an internship, and participate in service-learning programs. Women's Services extends the chance not only to students, but also the entire community, to gain volunteer training in domestic/sexual violence and par-

ticipate in specialized projects. Domestic Violence Week in October and Sexual Violence Week in April are two examples of specialized projects. Community action is essential for these two

and faxes are effective because they are concise, personal, and clearly present your opinion on an issue. Governor Rendell's 2003-04 budget cut exemplifies why establishing a personal

lies, and communities. The Meadville Women's Services is working to create a world where women and children do not have to fear domestic and sexual violence, homelessness, hunger, and all the

consequences of these abuses, but they need the support of their local community. If you

know or are a Jane, Dick, or Sam, help end the fight with domestic and sexual violence by contacting women's services. •

bond with local legislators is crucial for Women's Services to continue their efforts to end abuse and aid women and children.

Domestic and sexual violence creates severe problems for individuals, fami-

Make Your Voice Heard!

Gov. Edward G. Rendell's Office
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Robert D. Robbins
259 Main St.
Greenville, PA 16125-2054

Hon. Teresa Forcier
109 South Washington St. Park Bldg.
Titusville, PA 16354

Senator Rick Santorum
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Arlen Specter
711 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Phil English
312 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335

weeks to generate awareness about domestic and sexual violence.

Ford encourages the community to contact its legislators to ensure that they are accurately representing the community's needs. Letters

F 101 Students Put a Face on Local Agriculture

By : Lauren Croker
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Juicy, lean meat. Fresh, crisp vegetables. Savory, baked apples with sweet crumb topping. Locally-made ice cream. The Allegheny community enjoyed these delicacies and more at the first Local Foods Dinner on Wednesday, September 24th.

Jennifer DeHart, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science; Ron Simko, Director of Dining Services; and Nicky Mason, Project Coordinator for Creek Connections, have worked with a group of administrators, community members and students to arrange the dinner. DeHart says the dinner "had been a tremendous learning experience" for all involved, including students in DeHart's FS101 class "Geography of Addiction," who worked closely with the project to explore how globalized agriculture affects the local food industry.

As countries around the world produce an abundance of food at low cost, local farmers are losing sustainability, and are even being forced out of business. In the growing cutthroat economy, contracts go to the lowest bidders who are increasingly large or foreign producers. Local farmers cannot compete with mass production of crops from around the world and the low costs associated with mass production. The lower cost, however, often predicts lower quality, as local foods have continuously been preferred over processed and shipped foods.

To integrate the project with classroom work, DeHart's FS101 students examined the current status of agriculture, as well as the social and environmental costs associated with globalized agriculture. Putting a face on local agriculture, students conducted interviews



with local food producers including David Yoder, a local Amish farmer, who provides the produce for Meadville's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Yoder supplies locally grown organic produce to families in the Crawford County Area. In return, the Yoder family receives a fixed income throughout the year to support their farm. Students also spoke with Paul Miller, of Miller's Greenhouse and Produce; CSA members, Rachel O'Brien, Eric Pallant and Deb Dickey; and Darrell Frey, owner and operator of Three Sisters' Farm, an organic farm located in Sandy Lake.

Information gathered in the interviews was presented at the dinner. Posters, displays, handouts and table tents provided information about local

food production, costs, nutrition and more. Amy Rachkowski, a junior Environmental Studies major, and Zahava Cheropovich, a senior Environmental Science major, both helped prepare the educational materials. Lindsay Herendeen, a first year student in DeHart's FS101 class, helped prepare food in the kitchen and direct traffic through the educational area. In addition, local food producers were invited to share in the evening's festivities.

The Local Foods Committee chairpersons are also investigating the cost effectiveness of incorporating local foods into Allegheny cuisine. Currently, most of the food Americans consume is shipped over 1,500 miles before arriving at a destination, at least seven days after the product was harvested. Local growers offer consumers foods that have been harvested within a day or two.

Though the primary goal is providing the Allegheny community with healthy food, cost assessments must be done. While incorporating local foods into daily Allegheny cuisine would be more expensive than the current pre-processed food used by dining services, it may be a viable option, if quality were to outweigh cost. There are still other complicating factors: local foods often take more time and labor to pre-

BOUNTY (Continued on page 10)



How can I support Local Agriculture?

- **Join the CSA:** Contact membership coordinator Rachel O'Brien at robrien@allegheny.edu or Christopher Bakken at cbakken@allegheny.edu. Student memberships are only \$75/semester.
- **Shop at Miller's Produce and Greenhouse** 22674 State Highway 27, Meadville, PA 16335 (814) 333-6312
- **Shop at Valesky's:** 1044 Water St; Phone: 336-5121
- **Be active:** Contact Jennifer DeHart at jdehart@allegheny.edu and see how you can help!

Centers for Civic Engagement
<http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu>